

House Constitutional Resolutions Committee

May 2, 2023

Testimony on Senate Joint Resolution 2

Chair Plummer, Vice-Chair Hillyer, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the committee,

I am Mike Weinman, a retired Columbus police officer who serves as director of government affairs for the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police. Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of the 23,000 FOP members from every corner of Ohio in opposition to SJR 2.

We strongly oppose any effort to raise the voter threshold and move away from the one-person, one-vote ideals that are the basis for a simple majority rule in our democracy. We believe that SJR 2 would weaken the power of the individual voter while doing nothing to address dark money or special interests.

We oppose the effort to make it more difficult to amend the Constitution because of its potential impact on issues relating to collective bargaining. As history showed with SB 5 in 2011, the General Assembly gutted public sector worker rights. It forced the FOP and its allies to launch a successful referendum campaign to overturn the bill. Had the General Assembly and anti-worker organizations persisted with legislation, we would have to have turned towards the Constitution to preserve our collective bargaining rights.

We ask that you consider the long-term impact of changing how our Constitution is amended and vote against SJR2. The anti-worker organizations have not gone away, and our collective bargaining agreements protect our members and the people we serve.